

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 MCT-01 PM-05

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /089 W

-----014806 270950Z /12

P R 270604Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 505

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

JIDDA 086

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 769

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ASEC, DJ, ET

SUBJ: CAPTURE OF TERRORIST BAND IN "PALMIER EN ZINC" AFFAIR

REF: DJIBOUTI 751

1. IN PRESS STATEMENT MADE 21 DEC, MINISTER OF INTERIOR MOUMIN BAHDON REVEALED THAT ALL TEN PERSONS DIRECTLY IMPLICATED IN BLOODY "PALMIER EN ZINC" ATTACK OF 15 DEC WERE UNDER ARREST. ALL BUT ONE WERE AFARS, AND ALL HAVE ALLEGEDLY BEEN TIED WITH AFFILIATION TO THE ETHIOPIAN-GUIDED "POPULAR LIBERATION MOVEMENT" (MPL). THE RAPID CAPTURE OF THE ASSASSINS, WHOSE ATTEMPT COST FIVE LIVES AND 30 WOUNDED, DID MUCH TO REASSURE
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THE LOCAL POPULATION AND REINFORCED THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD BEEN SORELY TESTED BY A NUMBER OF EVENTS IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, INCLUDING TWO OTHER TERRORIST ATTACKS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE NAMES OF THE SUPPOSED AUTHORS OF THE LATEST CRIME HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED LOCALLY, IT APPEARS THAT ALL EITHER WORKED FOR THE DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT OR ARE THE CHILDREN

OF PEOPLE NORMALLY CONNECTED WITH THE LOCAL "ESTABLISHMENT".
CONSIDERED BY THE DJIBOUTI INVESTIGATORS AS THE HEAD OF THE
MPL CELL IS THE ADOPTED DJIBOUTI SON OF ONE OF THE MOST
PROMINENT FRENCH BUSINESSMEN IN DJIBOUTI, DIRECTOR OF THE
AGENCE MARILL. THE MARILL FAMILY HAS BEEN RESIDENT IN DJIBOUTI
FOR AT LEAST 40 YEARS, AND THEIR BUSINESS EMPIRE INCLUDES
A LARGE IMPORT/EXPORT BUSINESS AND DEALERSHIP FOR TOYOTA
AUTOMOBILES. ANOTHER ACCUSED TERRORIST IS THE SON OF FORMER
MINISTER MOHAMED KAMIL (NOT RELATED TO FOREIGN MINISTER).
TWO MEMBERS OF THE GENDARMERIE PROVIDED BACKUP PROTECTION
FOR THE CAR TRANSPORTING THE GRENADE THROWERS. A NEPHEW OF
AHMED DINI, FORMER PRIME MINISTER, WHO RESIGNED IMMEDIATELY
AFTER THE ATTACK, IS ALSO AMONG THE ACCUSED.

3. DJIBOUTI JUSTICE STILL FOLLOWS PRECISELY THAT OF THE
FRENCH LEGAL SYSTEM, WHICH DOES PERMIT THE DEATH PENALTY.
UNFORTUNATELY FOR THOSE IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO WISH TO GET
THE MATTER OF TRIALS OVER WITH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THIS
IS THE PERIOD OF ROTATION FOR THE FRENCH MAGISTRATES WHO
WILL TRY THE CASE, AND AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE IS AN INADE-
QUATE NUMBER OF MAGISTRATES AVAILABLE TO BRING THE CASE OR
CASES TO TRIAL.
CLARKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ZINC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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